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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/938,879	08/24/2001	David J. Perro	6245.006.00	2520

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EXAMINER

LE, DEBBIE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2177

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2004

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

ok

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/938,879

Applicant(s)

PERRO ET AL

Examiner

DEBBIE M LE

Art Unit

2177

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) is acknowledged.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 01/13/03 (pp# 5) is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and has been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shwe et al (US Patent 6,560,590 B1).

As per claims 1 and 4, Shwe discloses a system for interpreting natural language queries comprising:

providing a contextual lexicon (lexicon of term, col. 7, lines 1-35) and contextual rules (rule expansion, col. 7, lines 36-61);

receiving the natural language query (fig. 6, # 610), the natural language query having a plurality of text (set of features, col. 7, lines 3-5);

tagging the plurality of text using the contextual lexicon and contextual rules (col. 10, lines 35-48);

creating a structural representation of the plurality of text using a plurality of matrix rules (tree structure; query tree, fig. 3, col. 8, lines 63-67);

generating a plurality of conceptual phrases (col. 10, lines 53-67) to be submitted to an application for interpreting the plurality of conceptual phrases using a plurality of phrase generation rules applied to the structural representation of the plurality of text (col. 9, lines 8-66, col. 11, lines 1-16).

As per claim 2, the method of claim 1, Shwe further teaches formatting the plurality of concept phrases contained in a the concept phrase table (probability table depicts, col. 9, lines 66-67, fig. 3, elements <get_paid>) to be understood by a search engine or database management systems application (col. 11, lines 1-9), the formatting step creating a formatted concept phrase (col. 10, lines 59-62); and

submitting the formatted concept phrase, to the search engine or database management system to extract information relevant to the concept phrase (fig. 1b, col. 4, lines 13-27).

As per claim 3, Shwe teaches formatting the plurality of concept phrases contained in a the concept phrase table (probability table depicts, col. 9, lines 66-67, fig. 3, elements <get_paid>) to be understood by a search engine or database management systems application (col. 11, lines 1-9), the formatting step creating a formatted concept phrase (col. 10, lines 59-62);

submitting the formatted concept phrase to the search engine or database management system to obtain extracted information relevant to the concept phrase (fig. 1b, col. 4, lines 13-27);

obtaining the extracted information from the search engine or database management system (col. 4, lines 28-42, col. 26-36);

generating a plurality of second concept phrases from the extracted information for comparison to the plurality of concept phrases (col. 5, lines 37-46);

comparing the plurality of second concept phrases to the plurality of concept phrases (col. 13, lines 41-67, col. 14, lines 1-14); and

ranking the extracted information in order of relevance based on the comparing step (abstract, the last two sentences, col. 11, lines 29-31).

Conclusion

If a reference indicated as being mailed on PTO-FORM 892 has not been enclosed in this action, please contact Lisa Craney whose phone number is (703) 305-9601 for faster service.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DEBBIE M LE whose telephone number is 703-308-6409. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN BREENE can be reached on 703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Debbie Le

Feb. 20, 2004.

DEBBIE M LE
Examiner
Art Unit 2177



JOHN BREENE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100